



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Nez Perce National Forest  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
208-983-1950

Clearwater National Forest  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544  
208-476-4541

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File Code: 1950

Date: June 11, 2012

Dear Planning Participant,

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be considering a number of project proposals and conducting environmental analysis in the near future. A separate decision will be made on each individual proposal. Comment requirements are described below and project proposals are attached.

## How to Provide Comments

Please review the proposals and submit your site-specific comments as described below so they can be included in our analysis for the following projects:

- Old Shoe Lode Exploration
- Dixie Special Use Permit Reissuance
- Chetwood Lode Exploration
- Last Chance #1 Lode Exploration
- Silver Lode Exploration
- Jule Shaft Lode Exploration
- New Red Lead Adit Exploration
- Tailhold Special Use Permit Issuance

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered and oral comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the Lewiston Morning Tribune. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. One should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments should be submitted to Norma Staaf, NEPA Coordinator, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor's Office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Faxed comments must be provided via telephone to (208) 983-4099. Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours via telephone (208) 983-1950 or in person. Electronic comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf) or Word (.doc) to [comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us).

If you choose to comment on the proposal, please include the following: (1) your name, address, and (if possible) your telephone number, and organization represented (if any); (2) title of the project on which you are submitting comments; (3) specific facts and related rationale concerning this project that you feel should be considered. For appeal eligibility, each individual must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Additional information regarding how to comment can be found at 36 CFR 215.6.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not



have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and the available options at that time (see 7 CFR 1.27 for further information).

Thank you for your interest in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,

  
for RICK BRAZELL  
Forest Supervisor

ATTACHMENTS: Project Proposals

## **Project Proposals**

### **Old Shoe Lode Exploration**

#### **Introduction**

The Salmon River Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal for exploratory drilling in the North Fork Slate Creek area to test for mineral values on the Salmon River Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Idaho County, Idaho at T27N, R3E, Section 21 (Boise Meridian) (see attached map).

#### **Purpose and Need**

##### ***Purpose (Desired Condition)***

The role of the Forest Service regarding mining activities on Forest Service system lands is to ensure that mining activities minimize adverse environmental effects to National Forest system resources, and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Congress has not given the Forest Service authority to unreasonably circumscribe or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful.

Forest-wide management direction in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-15 to II-27 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). The management area direction for Management Areas (MA) 4 and 12 may also apply to this project. These management areas provide direction to: Encourage exploration and development of mineral resources, while at the same time minimizing surface impacts from those activities. (MA 4); and manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis (MA 12).

##### ***Need (Existing Condition)***

The claimant submitted a proposal for test drilling in six sites in the North Fork Slate Creek area to test for mineral values. The project area lies within areas previously disturbed for exploratory mining over five years ago in the Little Slate Creek watershed area. The area is dominated by upland vegetation and timber of mixed species, with smaller areas of riparian vegetation.

#### **Proposed Action**

The claimant has operated under two previously approved Plans of Operation on the Old Shoe claim. One was approved in 1997, and one was approved in 2007, both of which have expired. The claimant wishes to drill twelve 1" diameter test holes in six locations. Of these holes, six would be drilled vertically up to 60' deep, and six would be drilled horizontally approximately 30' to 35' deep. These holes would be drilled using a heavy duty ¾" electric drill mounted on a jig and powered by an electric generator. Small sumps would be required to contain water used for drilling and mud and drill cuttings produced by the drilling process. These sumps are anticipated to be sized approximately 3' in diameter and 2'-2 ½' deep. They would be dug using a small excavator, and would be dewatered and backfilled upon completion of drilling at each site.

A reclamation plan would be developed before the Plan of Operation is approved and a bond would be collected to address reclamation needs at the end of the project.

Access would be by existing roads and trails, and no roads or trails would be constructed for this project.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as appropriate for this project. In addition, all proposed activities would be conducted according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining, as appropriate.

Equipment proposed for use in the operation includes a small excavator, one or two four-wheel drive vehicles, and a utility trailer. A portable drill consisting of a heavy duty ¾" electric drill mounted on a jig, drill steels and bits, and a generator would also be used.

Implementation would ideally begin in the summer or fall of 2012 but may not begin until 2013, depending on weather and timing.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Potential effects to watershed, and other forest resources;
- Potential effects to fisheries, wildlife, and rare plant habitat, and cultural resources.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

The decisions to be made are:

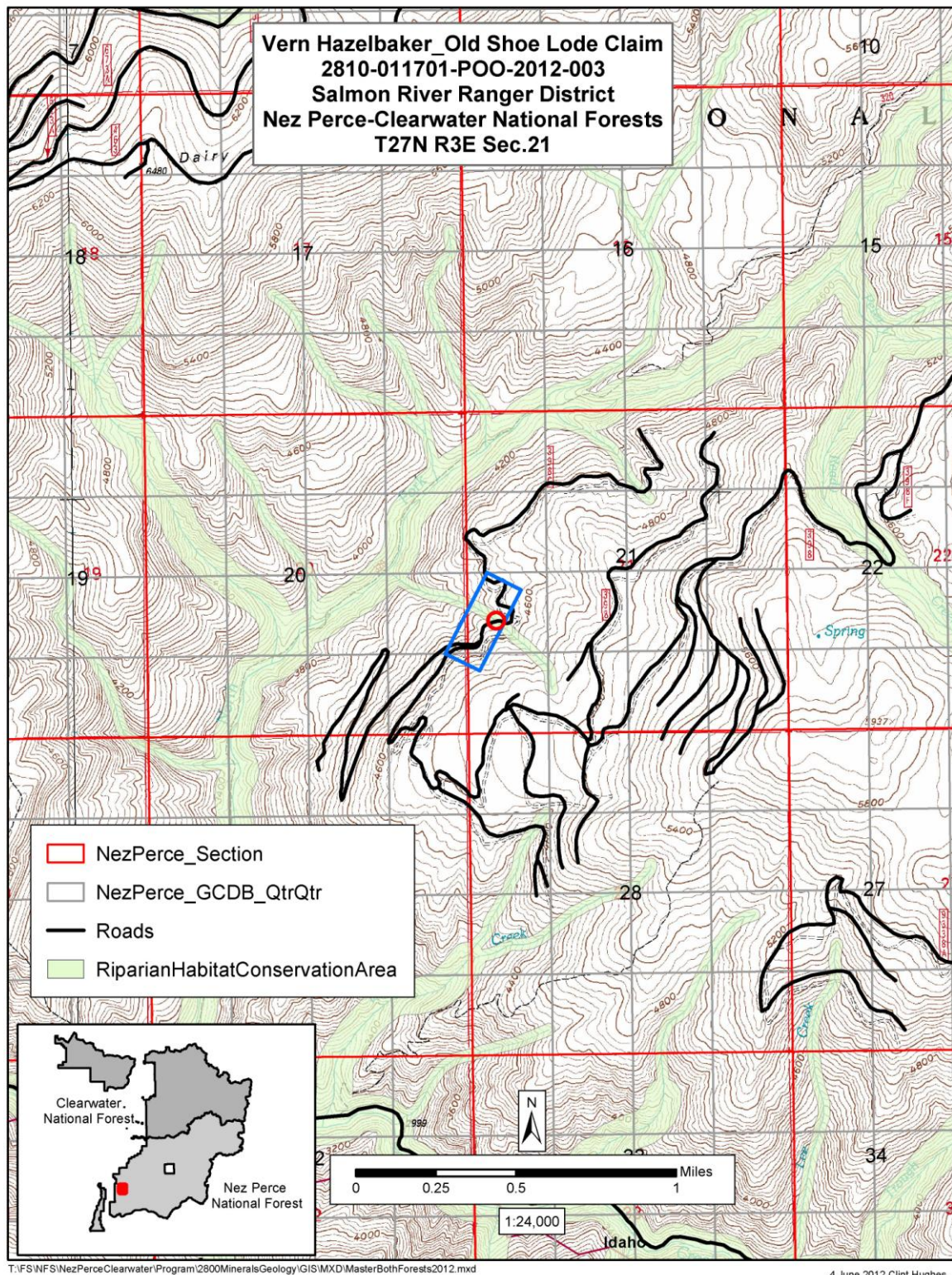
- Whether or not to approve the claimant's proposal for test drilling in the North Fork Slate Creek area to test for mineral values.
- If the proposal is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Marty Jones at (208) 983-5158.



## Old Shoe Lode Exploration Project Map



## **Dixie Special Use Permit Reissuance**

### **Introduction**

The Red River Ranger District proposes to reissue a special use permit to Sibyl Ward for an existing 4 foot by 4 foot spring box and a one inch diameter 415 foot water transmission line which crosses National Forest system lands to her residence on private property in the town of Dixie, Idaho on the Red River Ranger District, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Idaho County, Idaho at T26N R8E Section 27 (Boise Meridian) (see attached map).

### **Purpose and Need**

#### ***Purpose (Desired Condition)***

The purpose of this project is to update the permit with the correct name to reflect the change in property ownership.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-15 to II-27 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). The management area direction for Management Area (MA) 17 may also apply to this project. This management area provides direction to manage for timber production within the constraints imposed by the visual quality objectives (VQOs) of retention or partial retention while providing for other multiple uses and resources.

The project area is also located in the Gospel Hump #921 Idaho Roadless Area, with a Backcountry Restoration theme, as identified in the Idaho Roadless Rule (36 CFR 294 Subpart C), but is not located in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan FEIS Appendix C Gospel Hump Roadless Area. Direction in the Idaho Roadless Rule regarding special use permitting states, “This subpart does not revoke, suspend, or modify any permit, contract, or other legal instrument authorizing the occupancy and use of National Forest System land issued prior to October 16, 2008” (36 CFR 294.28(b) Subpart C).

#### ***Need (Existing Condition)***

Enos Snowman, sold his private property to Sibyl Ward in the Dixie, Idaho area, and Sibyl Ward would like the permit to reflect the change in ownership. Enos Snowman had a special use permit for the said improvements. These improvements are in place and have been previously permitted to Mr. Snowman, the previous owner of the private property.

### **Proposed Action**

The Red River Ranger District proposes to reissue a special use permit to Sibyl Ward for a 4 foot by 4 foot spring box and a one inch diameter 415 foot water transmission line which crosses National Forest system lands to her residence on private property in the town of Dixie, Idaho.

These improvements are in place and have been previously permitted to the previous owners of the residence. This use has been authorized since the late 80's. Authorized use would remain the same with no new improvements or ground disturbance. The permit would be issued for ten years.



## **Environmental Issues**

No potential issues have been identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

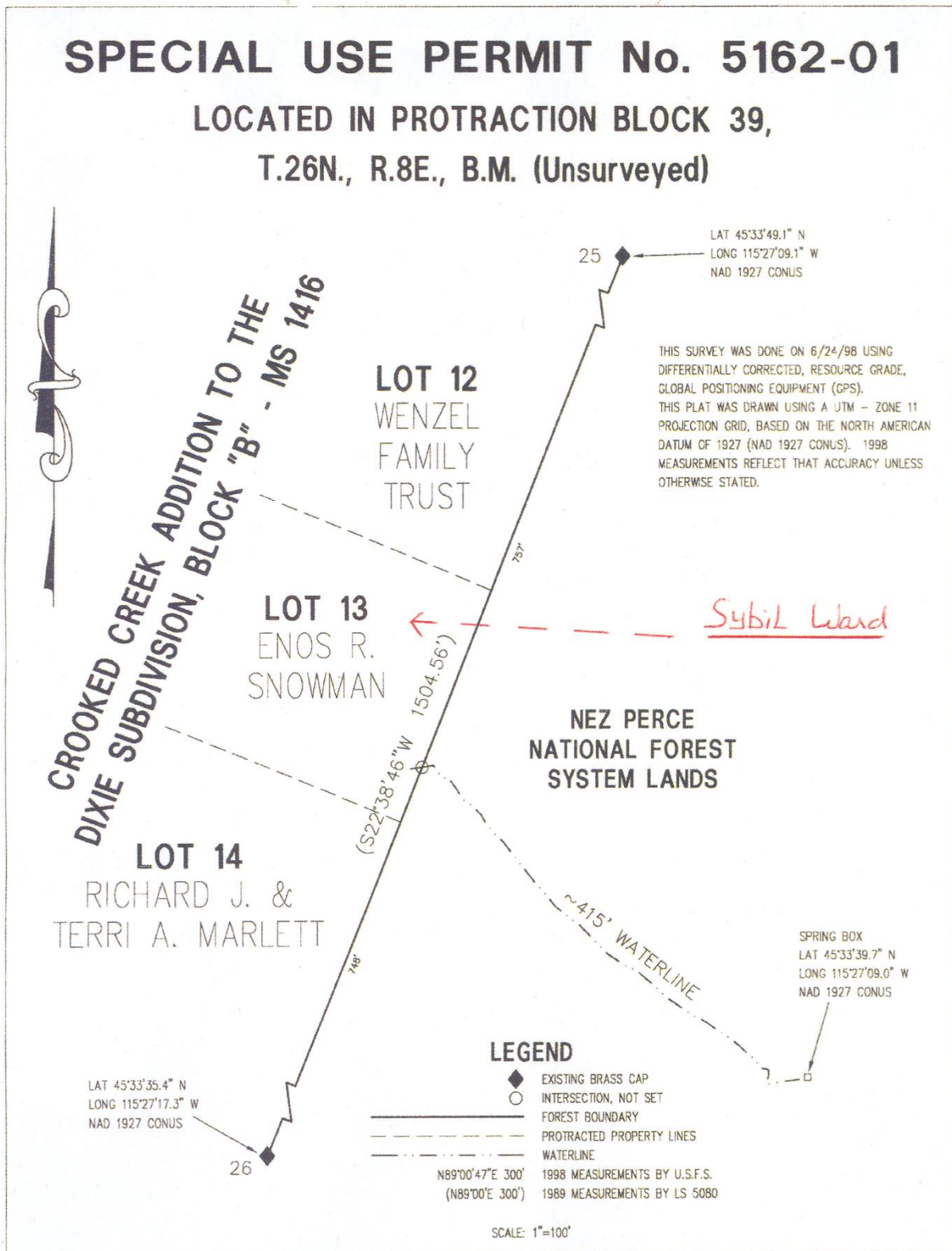
The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to reissue the permit.
- If the permit is reissued, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Zilia Lewis at (208) 935-4255.

*Dixie Special Use Permit Reissuance Project Map*





## Chetwood Lode Exploration

### Introduction

The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate four test pits to expose vein material to test for mineral values on the Lochsa Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Idaho County, Idaho at T33N, R7E, Sections 7, 17 and 18, Boise Meridian (see attached map).

### Purpose and Need

#### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The role of the Forest Service regarding mining activities on Forest Service system lands is to ensure that mining activities minimize adverse environmental effects to National Forest system resources, and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Congress has not given the Forest Service authority to unreasonably circumscribe or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-20 to II-40 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). Specific direction related to the proposed action includes the Forest Plan Standard to "*permit all lands on the Clearwater National Forest to be available for mineral leasing unless formally withdrawn*". The management area direction for Management Area (MA) E1 also applies to this project. This management area provides direction to provide optimum, sustained production of wood products.

#### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The claimant submitted the proposal to excavate four test pits on four different claims to test for mineral values in the Higgins Hump area northwest of Lowell, Idaho. The test pits sites are located along old timber roads and therefore have been previously disturbed. The test pits sites are located in the Middle Fork Clearwater River watershed area and are partially re-vegetated with predominately upland vegetation and timber of mixed species.

### Proposed Action

The Lochsa Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate four test pits on four different claims to expose vein material to test for mineral values in the Higgins Hump area. The material would be removed with a small excavator or backhoe. An estimated two tons would be removed from each site to expose vein material that would be removed and run through a small trommel that would be located on the Chetwood #1 Mining Claim. When the sample has been obtained, the pit would be refilled with material, any existing topsoil would be replaced, and the affected area would be reseeded. Only one pit would be open at a time. Heavy equipment would be on site for approximately two days and the trommel, camping, and prospecting equipment would be used to prospect the four claims and would stay on site for the remainder of the summer and through the winter so that the equipment could be used the following summer.

No roads or trails would be constructed for this project but some small trees would need to be brushed out of the trail to get to the sample site. Access would be on the existing Forest Road 460B.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as appropriate for this project. In addition, all proposed activities would be conducted according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining, as appropriate.

Equipment proposed for use in the operation includes a Takeuchi TB025 Trackhoe, DRESSER TD8 Dozer, pickup trucks and ATV's. Due to access difficulties, a shed would be built on site for storage of the trommel, camping equipment, and mining equipment. Implementation is expected to begin in 2013.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Potential effects to watershed, and other forest resources;
- Potential effects to fisheries, wildlife, and rare plant habitat, and cultural resources.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

The decisions to be made are:

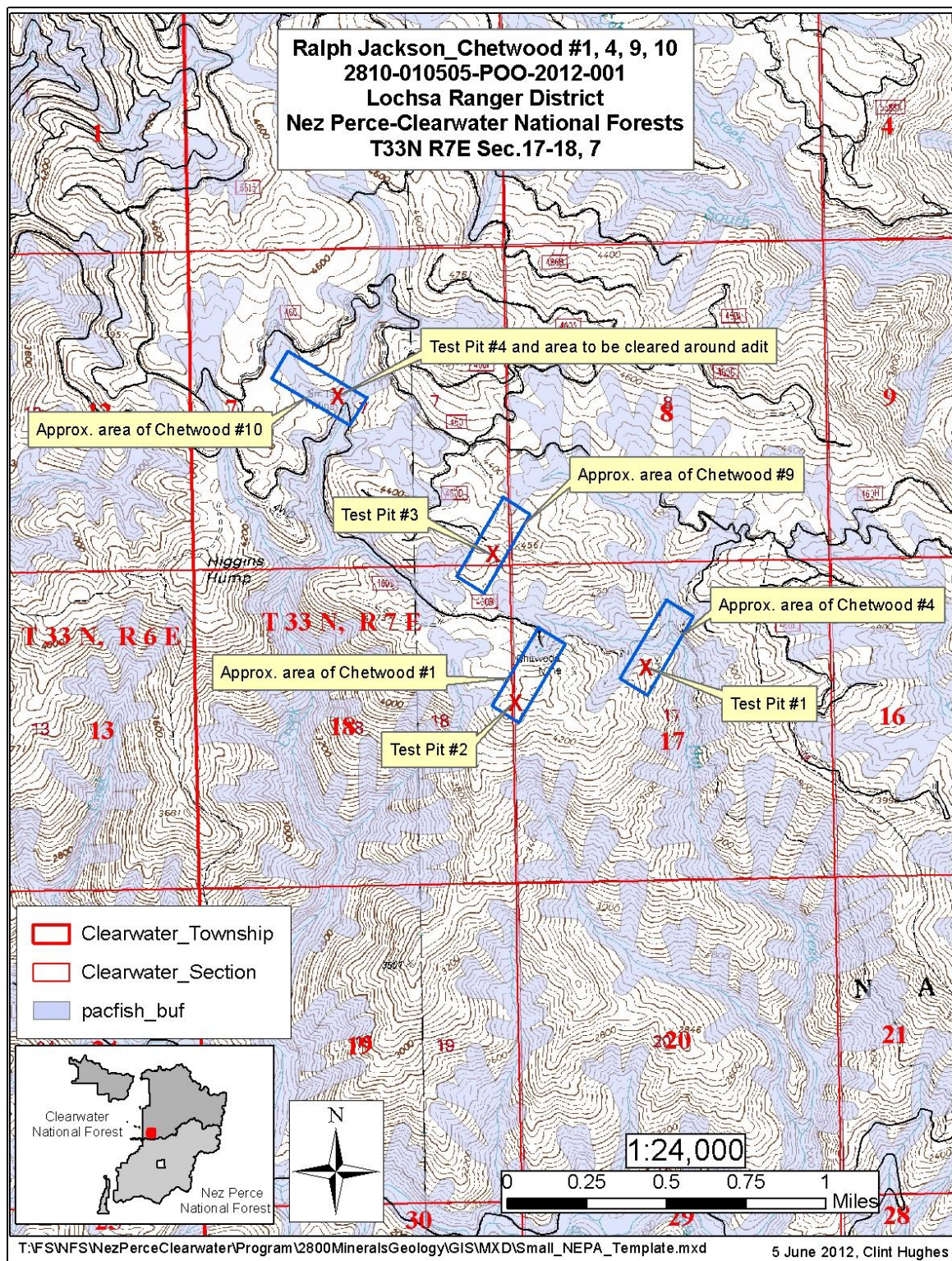
- Whether or not to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate four test pits and to prospect in the Higgins Hump area to test for mineral values.
- If the proposal is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Clint Hughes at (208) 983-5146.



## Chetwood Lode Exploration Project Map





## Last Chance #1 Lode Exploration

### Introduction

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate three test pits to expose vein material to test for mineral values on the North Fork Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Clearwater County, Idaho at T37N, R6E, Section 33, Boise Meridian (see attached map).

### Purpose and Need

#### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The role of the Forest Service regarding mining activities on Forest Service system lands is to ensure that mining activities minimize adverse environmental effects to National Forest system resources, and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Congress has not given the Forest Service authority to unreasonably circumscribe or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-20 to II-40 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). Specific direction related to the proposed action includes the Forest Plan Standard to "*permit all lands on the Clearwater National Forest to be available for mineral leasing unless formally withdrawn*". The management area direction for Management Area (MA) E1 also applies to this project. This management area provides direction to provide optimum, sustained production of wood products.

#### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The claimant submitted the proposal to excavate three sites in the French Mountain area to test for mineral values. The excavation areas lie within 10 feet of a current road in previously disturbed areas in the Clearwater River watershed area, and is partially revegetated with predominately upland vegetation and timber of mixed species.

### Proposed Action

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate three test pits to expose vein material to test for mineral values in the French Mountain area. Two of the three test pits are in the same area as what was approved in 2010 and the third test pit is within 20 feet of the third area tested in 2010. The material would be removed with a small excavator or backhoe. An 8 foot long by 8 foot wide by 8 foot deep pit would be dug at each site to expose vein material that would be removed and sent for testing. When the sample has been obtained, the pit would be refilled with material, any existing topsoil would be replaced, and the affected area would be reseeded. Only one pit would be open at a time.

No roads or trails would be constructed for this project. Access would be on existing Forest Road 538.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as appropriate for this project. In addition, all proposed activities



would be conducted according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining, as appropriate.

Equipment proposed for use in the operation includes a small Case 583 backhoe and an International TD8Dozer. Implementation is expected to begin in 2013.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Potential effects to watershed, and other forest resources;
- Potential effects to fisheries, wildlife, and rare plant habitat, and cultural resources.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

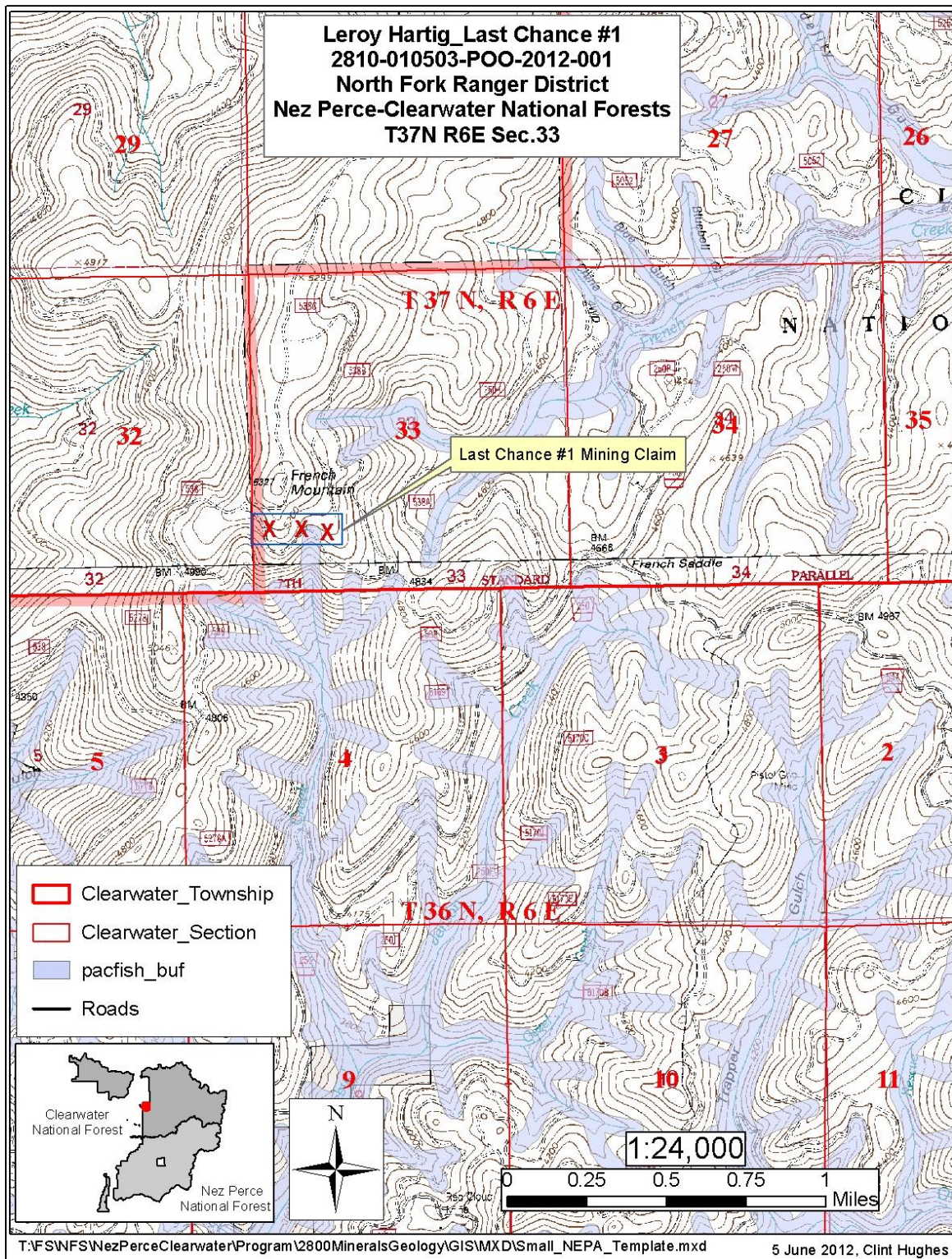
The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate three sites in the French Mountain area to test for mineral values.
- If the proposal is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Clint Hughes at (208) 983-5146.

## Last Chance #1 Lode Exploration Project Map





## Silver Lode Exploration

### Introduction

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate seven to ten test pits to expose vein material to test for mineral values on the North Fork Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Clearwater County, Idaho at T37N, R6E, Section 27, Boise Meridian (see attached map).

### Purpose and Need

#### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The role of the Forest Service regarding mining activities on Forest Service system lands is to ensure that mining activities minimize adverse environmental effects to National Forest system resources, and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Congress has not given the Forest Service authority to unreasonably circumscribe or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-20 to II-40 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). Specific direction related to the proposed action includes the Forest Plan Standard to "*permit all lands on the Clearwater National Forest to be available for mineral leasing unless formally withdrawn*". The management area direction for Management Area (MA) E1 also applies to this project. This management area provides direction to provide optimum, sustained production of wood products.

#### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The claimant submitted the proposal to excavate seven to ten sites in the French Mountain area to test for mineral values. Two of the excavation areas lie within an existing previously disturbed pit. The remaining pits are within 150 feet of a current road and in a previously disturbed area in the North Fork Clearwater River watershed area, which is partially revegetated with predominately upland vegetation and timber of mixed species.

### Proposed Action

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate seven to ten test pits to expose vein material to test for mineral values in the French Mountain area. The first two test pits would be within the existing pit to determine the strike of the vein material. The additional pits would be dependent on the strike of the vein but are expected to be within 150 feet of the existing road, which is all located in an area that was logged recently. The material would be removed with a small excavator or backhoe. An 8 foot long by 8 foot wide by 8 foot deep pit would be dug at each site to expose vein material that would be removed and sent for testing. When the sample has been obtained, the pit would be refilled with material, any existing topsoil would be replaced, and the affected area would be reseeded. Only one pit would be open at a time.

No roads or trails would be constructed for this project, but some small trees would need to be brushed out of the trail to the existing pit. Access would be on the existing Forest Road 5052.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as appropriate for this project. In addition, all proposed activities would be conducted according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining, as appropriate.

Equipment proposed for use in the operation includes a small mini excavator, a similar small skid steer as shown below and a 2 ½ ton dump truck. Implementation is expected to begin in 2013.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Potential effects to watershed, and other forest resources;
- Potential effects to fisheries, wildlife, and rare plant habitat, and cultural resources.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

The decisions to be made are:

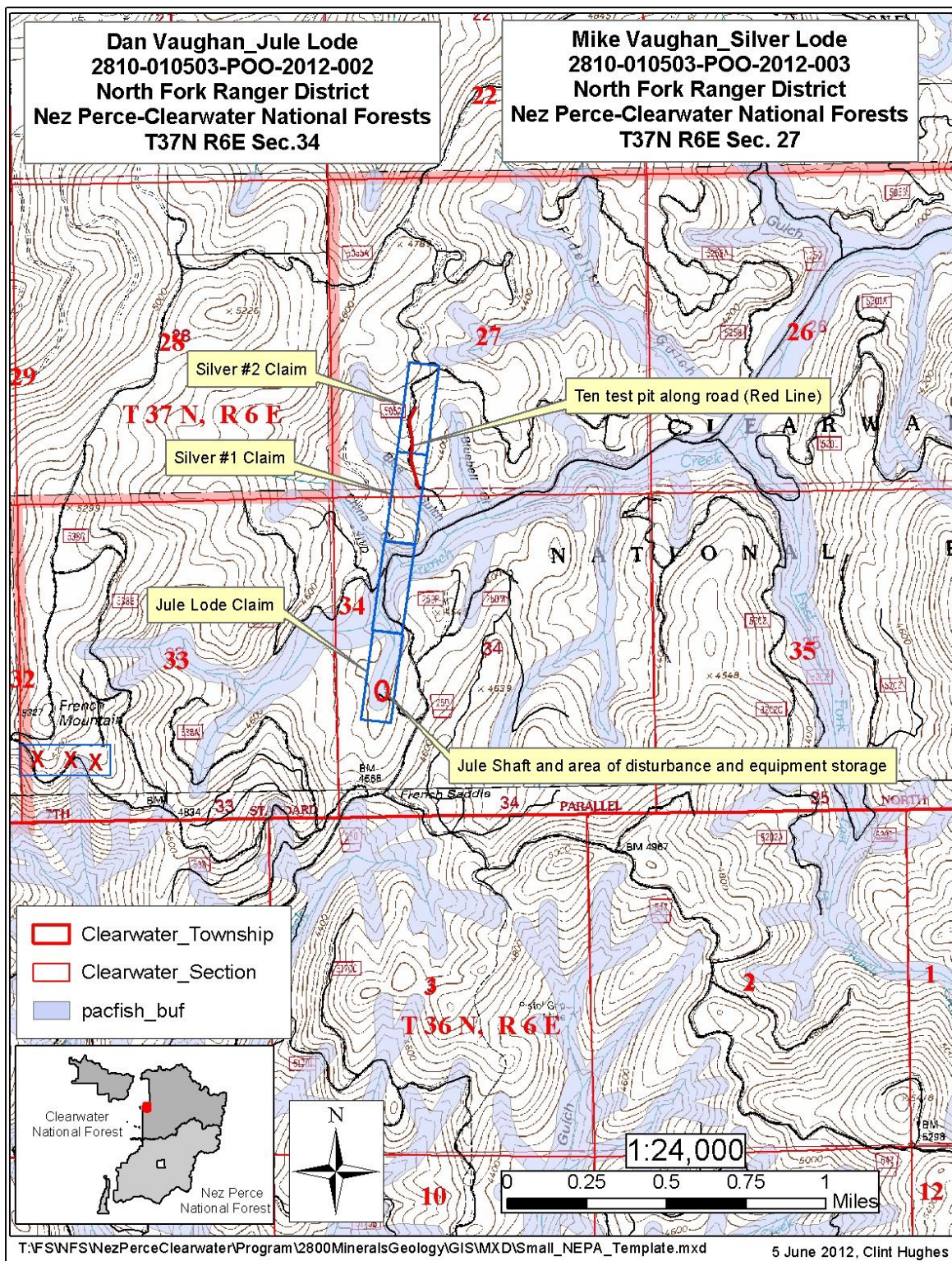
- Whether or not to approve the claimant's proposal to excavate seven to ten sites to test for mineral values.
- If the proposal is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Clint Hughes at (208) 983-5146.



# Silver Lode Exploration Project Map



## Jule Shaft Lode Exploration

### Introduction

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to enter the existing Jule Mine Shaft to explore for and extract a large bulk sample over a five year period. The claimant is planning to haul the sample to a Millsite located on private land near Weippe, Idaho. The Jule Mine is located on the North Fork Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Clearwater County, Idaho at T37N, R6E, Section 34, Boise Meridian (see attached map).

### Purpose and Need

#### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The role of the Forest Service regarding mining activities on Forest Service system lands is to ensure that mining activities minimize adverse environmental effects to National Forest system resources, and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Congress has not given the Forest Service authority to unreasonably circumscribe or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-20 to II-40 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). Specific direction related to the proposed action includes the Forest Plan Standard to "*permit all lands on the Clearwater National Forest to be available for mineral leasing unless formally withdrawn*". The management area direction for Management Area (MA) E1 also applies to this project. This management area provides direction to provide optimum, sustained production of wood products.

#### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The claimant submitted the proposal to explore underground in an existing shaft, which has several tunnels in the French Mountain area. The shaft is located in an existing dozer cut that has been extensively modified. Access to the Jule shaft is via Forest Road 250C, which has a Powder River gate to restrict access to the mine workings by the public for safety reasons.

### Proposed Action

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to explore underground in an existing shaft, which has several tunnels in the French Mountain area. The claimant intends to remove 50 to 500 tons of ore from the underground workings per year. He would haul the vein material off National Forest system lands to a mill site near Weippe, Idaho. Grey granite waste rock would be spread on the existing road as part of the maintenance for access to the claim. Processing the bulk sample from several areas within his tunnels would help him determine the profitable areas of the mine so that it can be mined at a profit.

The shaft constantly fills with water and the claimant desires to land apply the water pumped from the shaft. Land application would be accomplished by piping the water to a site and either discharging it at several points directly on the ground or by dispersing it with a number of sprinklers. The water would then percolate naturally into the ground. Application would not



exceed 112 gpm per acre. A sample of the water was sent to Anatek Labs in Moscow Idaho and was screened for antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead, and zinc. All samples tested below EPA Aquatic Life Chronic standards. The site is located in the North Fork Clearwater River watershed area .

In support of his operations, the claimant would need up to 25 trees from his claim for shoring up the sides of his tunnels. These trees would be approved and marked by the Forest Service prior to felling.

No roads or trails would be constructed for this project. Access would be on the existing Forest Road 250C.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as appropriate for this project. In addition, all proposed activities would be conducted according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining, as appropriate.

Equipment proposed for use in the operation includes pickup trucks, 2½ ton ore haul trucks, portable test plant, ASV 50 Skid steer, ASV 70 Skid steer, small two ton rubber tracked dump trucks, air compressor, 100 KW diesel generator, and two 8' x 20' portable and lockable conex boxes. Implementation is expected to begin in 2013.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Potential effects to watershed, and other forest resources;
- Potential effects to fisheries, wildlife, and rare plant habitat, and cultural resources.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

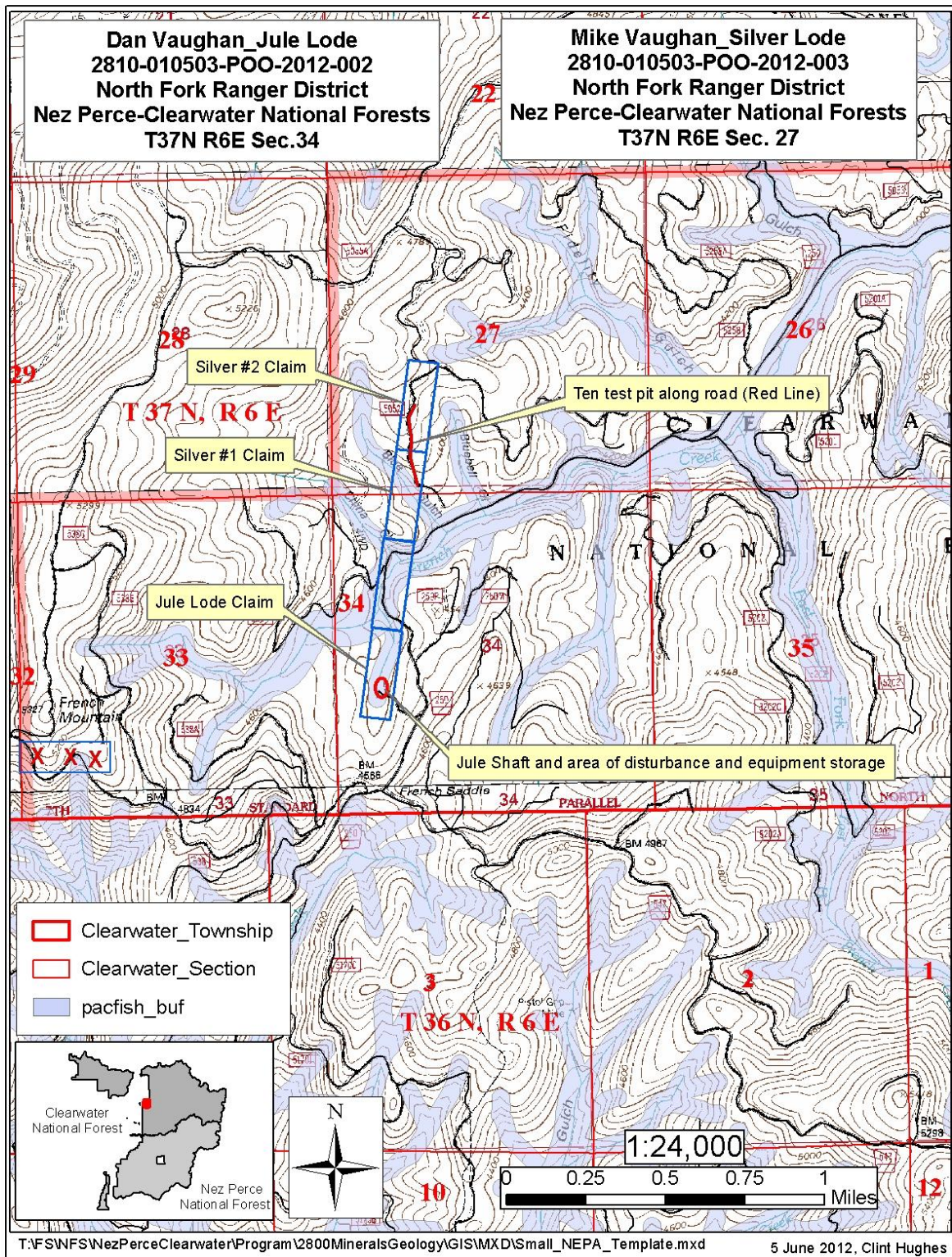
The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to approve the claimant's proposal to explore his underground workings for mineral values.
- If the proposal is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Clint Hughes at (208) 983-5146.

# *Jule Shaft Lode Exploration Project Map*





## New Red Lead Adit Exploration

### Introduction

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to enter the existing New Red Lead Adit to explore for and extract a bulk sample over a five month period. Claimants plan to continue driving their adit and shoring it up with timbers from their claim in an effort to find a valuable deposit that can be mined at a profit. The New Red Lead Claim is located on the North Fork Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Clearwater County, Idaho at T38N, R13E, Section 4, Boise Meridian (see attached map).

### Purpose and Need

#### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The role of the Forest Service regarding mining activities on Forest Service system lands is to ensure that mining activities minimize adverse environmental effects to National Forest system resources, and comply with all applicable environmental laws. Congress has not given the Forest Service authority to unreasonably circumscribe or prohibit activities under the 1872 General Mining Law that are otherwise lawful.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-20 to II-40 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). Specific direction related to the proposed action includes the Forest Plan Standard to "*permit all lands on the Clearwater National Forest to be available for mineral leasing unless formally withdrawn*". The management area direction for Management Area (MA) B2 also applies to this project. This management area provides direction to manage each recommended wilderness to protect its wilderness character, and the applicable minerals standard for MA B2 states, "Require restoration of surface disturbance to near-natural condition in areas no longer needed for mining purposes within one year of disturbance."

This project is also located in the Clearwater National Forest Plan FEIS Appendix C Hoodoo Roadless Area, and the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area, with a Wild Land Recreation theme, in the Idaho Roadless Rule (36 CFR 294 Subpart C). Direction in the Idaho Roadless Rule regarding mineral activities in Wild Land Recreation theme areas states, "Nothing in this subpart shall affect mining activities conducted pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872" (36 CFR 294.25 Subpart C).

#### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The claimant submitted the proposal to explore underground in an existing adit in the Black Lead Mountain area. The adit is located in an east facing hill approximately 200 feet below a small saddle near Forest Trail 508-A. Access to the New Red Lead Adit is via Forest Road 581-D to Forest Trail 508 to Forest Trail 508-A. The site is located in the North Fork Clearwater River watershed area.

### Proposed Action

The North Fork Ranger District proposes to approve the claimant's proposal to explore underground in an existing adit in the Black Lead Mountain area. The claimant typically works

the underground workings one or more long weekends with two to six or more people working per year during mid to late summer. Tunnel work includes removal of material to an existing tailings pile outside of the adit. Samples from several areas within the tunnel and from the surface of the four claims would help determine the profitable areas of the mine and claims so that it can potentially be mined at a profit.

In support of the operations, the claimant would need 20 to 30 small trees (due to the lack of larger trees in the area) from the claim for shoring up the sides of the tunnel. These trees would be approved and marked by the Forest Service prior to felling.

No roads or trails would be constructed for this project. Access would be on existing Forest Road 581-D and Trails 508 and 508-A.

A standard set of mitigation measures has been developed for exploration proposals of this type and would be implemented as appropriate for this project. In addition, all proposed activities would be conducted according to the State of Idaho Best Management Practices for mining, as appropriate.

Equipment proposed for use in the operation includes pickup trucks, motorcycles and chainsaw. Implementation is expected to begin in 2013.

## **Environmental Issues**

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include:

- Potential effects to watershed, and other forest resources;
- Potential effects to fisheries, wildlife, and rare plant habitat, and cultural resources.

## **Decisions to Be Made**

The decisions to be made are:

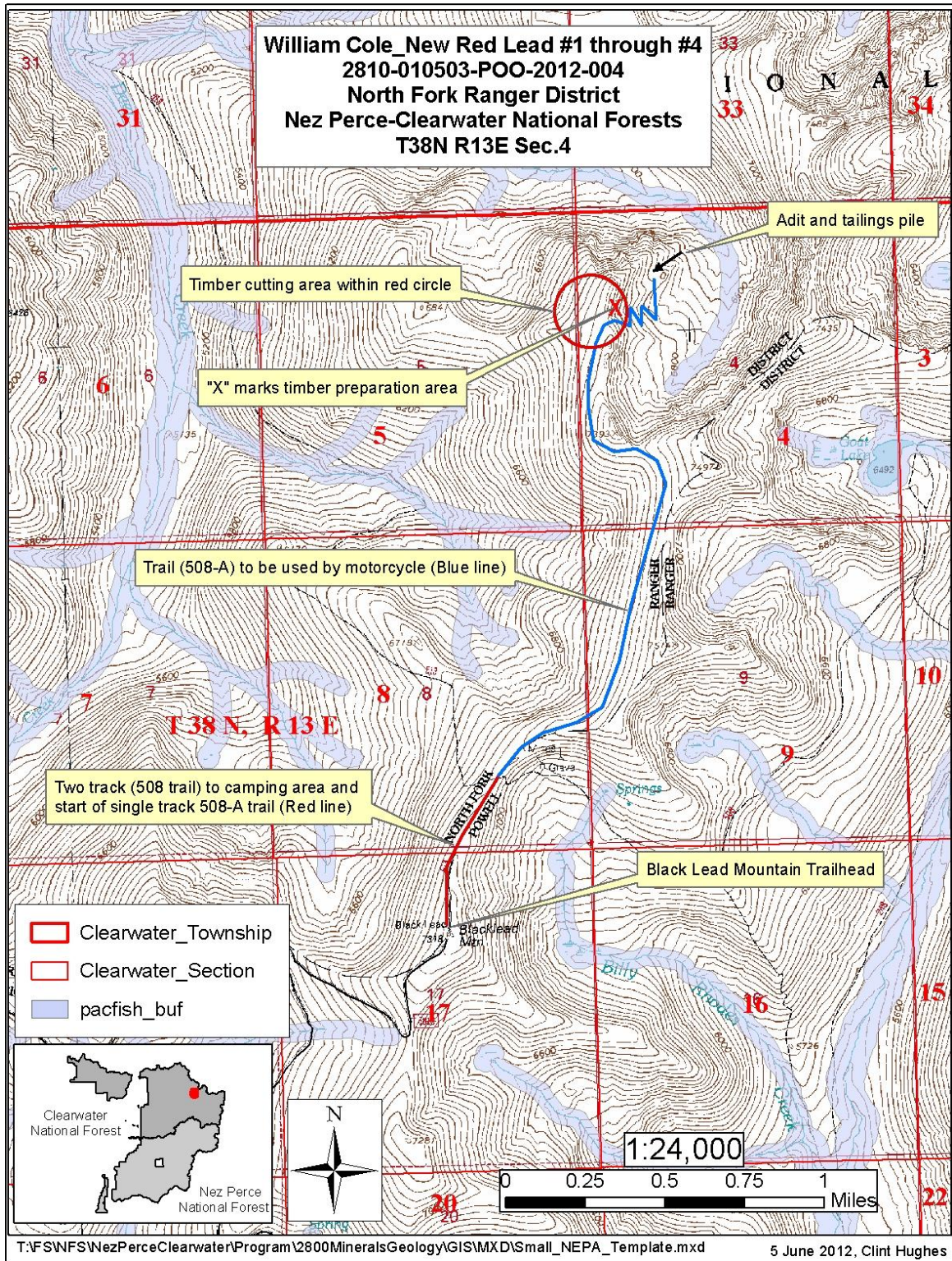
- Whether or not to approve the claimant's proposal to explore his underground workings for mineral values in the Black Lead Mountain area.
- If the proposal is approved, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Clint Hughes at (208) 983-5146.



## New Red Lead Adit Exploration Project Map



## Tailhold Special Use Permit Issuance

### Introduction

The Palouse Ranger District proposes to issue Idaho Department of Lands a special use permit for approximately eight tailholds located on Forest Service system lands on the Palouse Ranger District, Nez-Perce-Clearwater National Forests, Clearwater County, Idaho at T39N R2E Section 19 (Boise Meridian) (see attached map).

### Purpose and Need

#### *Purpose (Desired Condition)*

The purpose of this project is to grant Idaho Department of State Lands' request to use tailholds located on Forest Service system lands.

Forest-wide management direction in the Clearwater National Forest Plan related to this project can be found on pages II-20 to II-40 (USDA Forest Service, 1987). The management area direction for Management Area (MA) E1 may also apply to this project. This management area provides direction to provide optimum, sustained production of wood products.

#### *Need (Existing Condition)*

The need of this project is Idaho Department of State Lands has a planned timber sale adjacent to Forest Service system lands. Cable logging operations are planned for a portion of this sale which would require tailholds on the east side of Long Meadow Creek on Forest Service system lands.

### Proposed Action

The Palouse Ranger District proposes to issue Idaho Department of Lands a special use permit for approximately eight tailholds located on approximately 4.5 acres on Forest Service system lands. The planned cable logging operations for portions of their Long Bear Timber Sale (8MM board feet) would require tailholds on the east side of Long Meadow Creek during implementation. The average line for each tailhold would be approximately 2500 feet in length. The Idaho Department of Lands personnel would tie their skyline to trees or stumps on Forest Service system land when there are no suitable trees on their side of the property line. Trees used as tailholds would be protected by tree plates and any tailhold that is pulled over or felled for safety would be left in place or removed after approval from the Forest Service.

No ground disturbance is proposed. Each tailhold would be approved in advance by the Forest Service and would be located outside of Forest Service system land RHCAs.

### Environmental Issues

Potential issues identified through consultation with Forest Service resource specialists and from issues identified from similar past projects include potential effects to wildlife and water quality.



## **Decisions to Be Made**

The decisions to be made are:

- Whether or not to issue the special use permit.
- If the permit is issued, what stipulations to implementation would be required?

## **Project Information**

If you have questions or want more information on this project, please contact Zilia Lewis at (208) 935-4255.

## Tailhold Special Use Permit Issuance Project Map

CR-41-0049  
Long Bear

Tailhold Permit Application  
Logging Plan Map

Exhibit A  
Map 1 of 1

